



COLSF 14.5 V1

COLBERT LANDFILL September 8, 1989

COLBERT LANDFILL FINAL CLEANUP WORK BEGINS!

The wells being drilled today are the first of many that will be used for long term monitoring and to better define the contamination plume. Also information from these wells will be used in the design of the final groundwater extraction and treatment system. Spokane County is responsible for the actual construction work under the oversight of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Construction at Colbert is a milestone for the citizens of Colbert. This represents the end of many years of hard work to start cleanup on their landfill. Four years of construction in their neighborhood lays ahead. The citizens should be commended for their tireless efforts in reviewing site documents, being on work groups, and participating in public meetings held by the governmental agencies to reach this point.

This construction represents success in cooperation with state, county and federal agencies and private industry to protect the Washington's environment. Colbert is the first of the several landfill Superfund sites in the Spokane area to begin design and construction of the final remedy. The others are Northside Landfill, where construction on the remedy will begin within next two years, and Mica and Greenacres, which are currently under study.

Starting the cleanup work at Colbert is an important step for EPA. Congress mandated in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) that EPA start at least 175 Remedial Design and Remedial Actions (RD/RA) nationwide by October 1989. Colbert is the first of these in Region 10.

The cleanup at Colbert will take many years, design and construction of the groundwater extraction and treatment system alone will take 4 years. Once in place, groundwater treatment will take decades. An estimated schedule for the design and construction of the pilot and final treatment system follows:

Phase I - Construction of long-term monitoring system and pilot treatment system. Estimated time for completion: Spring 1991.

Phase II - Design of final treatment system. The review of the pilot system and design of final system will take place from Spring 1991 until Winter 1992. Construction of the final plant will occur from Spring 1993 until Summer 1993.

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